

AMENDING THE ACT AUTHORIZING THE APPREHENSION AND DETENTION OF INSANE PERSONS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR TEMPORARY COMMITMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MARCH 14 (legislative day, MARCH 12), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. PASTORE, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 263]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S. 263) to amend section 5 of the act entitled "An Act to authorize the apprehension and detention of insane persons in the District of Columbia, and providing for their temporary commitment in the Government Hospital for the Insane, and for other purposes," approved April 27, 1904, as amended, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Page 1, line 3, strike out the words "the first sentence of".

Page 2, line 12, strike out the quotation mark and add the following sentence:

No certificate alleging the insanity of any person shall be valid which has been issued by a physician who is financially interested in the hospital or asylum in which the alleged insane person is to be confined; nor, except in the case of physicians employed by the United States or the District of Columbia, shall any such certificate be valid which has been issued by a physician who is professionally or officially connected with such hospital or asylum.

The purpose of the bill is to allow commissioned surgeons of the United States Air Force and physicians employed by the Veterans' Administration, as well as doctors licensed to practice in the District of Columbia, but not residing therein, to issue certificates of insanity. At the present time commissioned surgeons of the United States Army, Navy, and Public Health Service, and practitioners licensed in the District of Columbia and residing therein, may issue such certificates.

The bill was requested by the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, and has the approval of all interested agencies. It was favorably reported by a unanimous vote of the committee.

## CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SEC. 5. *For the purposes of sections 21-326 to 21-331, no certificate as to the sanity or the insanity of any person shall be valid which has been issued (a) by a physician who has not been regularly licensed to practice medicine in the District of Columbia, unless he be a commissioned surgeon of the United States Army, Navy, or Public Health Service; or (b) by a physician who is not a permanent resident of the District of Columbia; or (c) by a physician who has not been actively engaged in the practice of his profession for at least three years; or (d) by a physician who is related by blood or by marriage to the person whose mental condition is in question.* *That for the purpose of this Act no certificate as to the sanity or the insanity of any person shall be valid which has been issued (a) by a physician who has not been regularly licensed to practice medicine in the District of Columbia, unless he be a commissioned surgeon of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, or Public Health Service, or a physician employed by the Veterans' Administration; or (b) by a physician who is related by blood or by marriage to the person whose mental condition is in question. [Nor shall any certificate alleging the insanity of any person be valid which has been issued by a physician who is financially interested in the hospital or asylum in which the alleged insane person is to be confined, or who is professionally or officially connected therewith.] No certificate alleging the insanity of any person shall be valid which has been issued by a physician who is financially interested in the hospital or asylum in which the alleged insane person is to be confined; nor, except in the case of physicians employed by the United States or the District of Columbia, shall any such certificate be valid which has been issued by a physician who is professionally or officially connected with such hospital or asylum.*

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